

Flanders factory hit by fire

Flanders Corp's manufacturing facility in Bartow, Florida, USA has been destroyed by fire.

Preliminary indications are that the factory is a total loss. The air filtration products manufacturer is fully insured for damage to the factory and for any loss of profits consequent to the damage. The cause of the fire has not yet been established.

Flanders will immediately shift production to other plants. The company expects to be able to absorb the loss of capacity by the production shift, although there may be a short-term disruption of supply.

For further information, visit www.flanderscorp.com

Flat full year sales forecast for Whatman

Whatman plc expects full year 2007 sales to be flat compared with 2006, after sales fell 8% in the first six months.

In a half year trading update, Whatman said that first half sales of £53.7 million are down by 8% at constant exchange rates. Whatman points out that the company faced a strong first half 2006 comparator.

At the beginning of the year the order book was 22% down on the 2006 opening position. Whaman says that it has now recovered much of this shortfall and that orders for delivery in 2007 are now only 2% down compared with 2006's mid year point.

Whatman believes that with the current order book, the company is well placed to improve in the second half of the year.

Whatman is currently completing a strategic review of the business which is should be ready to be presented with the interim results in September.

"This has been a challenging first half due to the weak order book going into the period and the supply chain issues in the BioScience division which has hampered our ability to fulfill orders. However, looking forward into the second half we are encouraged by the recovery in order book levels and we are taking steps to resolve the BioScience supply chain issues," said Kieran Murphy, CEO of Whatman. "Looking further ahead, projects are underway which will ensure that we develop permanent solutions to historic problems."

For further information, visit www.whatman.com

And finally ...

Welcome to the new-look Filtration Industry Analyst!

While we've updated the design and layout of the newsletter, be assured that we will continue to provide the usual topical news, analysis, comment and opinion that our readers expect. Please let us know what you think of the new format. The editor, Roisin Reidy, would be delighted to hear from you. Tel: +44 1865 843695.

E-mail: r.reidy@elsevier.com.

For further information, visit www.filtrationindustry-analyst.com

Exchange Rates Against the US Dollar

Date: 20.7.2007

COUNTRY	RATE	COUNTRY	RATE
Australia	A\$1.14	Netherlands	€0.73
Austria	€0.73	Norway	NKr5.73
Belgium	€0.73	Philippines	Peso44.79
Canada	C\$1.04	Singapore	S\$1.51
China	Yn7.57	South Africa	R6.87
Denmark	DKr5.40	South Korea	KWn929.18
Finland	€0.73	Spain	€0.73
France	€0.73	Sweden	SKr6.65
Germany	€0.73	Switzerland	SFr1.20
India	Rs40.32	Taiwan	T\$32.80
Italy	€0.73	Thailand	Bt29.85
Japan	¥122.39	UK	£0.49
Malaysia	Rt3.42	USA	US\$1.00

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Printed by

Mayfield Press (Oxford) Limited
02207